



"P.R.I.D.E. ...the Amberley experience..."

## Week 1 Update Flier - 3 February 2012

*Tena koutou nga mihi ki a koutou - greetings to all*

Welcome back to school for another great year of quality teaching and learning, and seeing our children grow and have fun!! Special welcome to new children and their families - we'll have a full list of our *newbees* in next week's full newsletter, along with a lot more information on the year ahead.

*NB: the normal school (A3) newsletter is published fortnightly (even weeks) on a Thursday (or Friday).*

### Staffing News

A BIG Amberley welcome to our new Room 4 teacher **Annabel Chambers**.

School cleaner **Brenda Sinclair** and teacher aide **Sarah Newell** have resigned their positions, with both positions being advertised over the next week.

Our talented new classroom music teacher **Kathy Stevens** started her fortnightly (*Thursdays*) classes this week.

Our condolences to Jenny and Bruce Yates on the death of Bruce's dad Tom 2 weeks ago; and to Julie Roadnight, whose dad passing away in England earlier this week.

### What's Happening to start the Year

Room 8 and 9 technology classes got underway yesterday at Rangiora Borough School's Technology Centre - thank you parents for having children at school on time for their 8.50am bus.

As parents are aware Mrs Bennetto's Room 7 class has been relocated to the Arahura Centre (*in PRIDE room*) while their classroom is having a *significant make-over* (approx \$100 000!) in the next two terms, with plans developed and local tenders being called next week.

Planning for the new classroom (*for our New Entrants*) is also well underway with an architect being appointed in the next fortnight, and we're aiming to have tenders called in March, with a possible opening early in term 3.

This exciting *purpose-built development* brings with it some other potential changes including the opportunity to explore an extension to our four year old programme (*maybe extending the number of days?*), and a revamp (*partial relocation?*) of the adventure playground.

Swimming classes are off to a great start at our local pool, don't forget those togs and towels children!! The Amberley School-based community Kapa Haka group (Yr 7 & 8s) starts up again next Thursday.

**NEXT WEEK** (*see the attached family planner*):

Tuesday → 3.15 - Rooms 6 to 9 meet the teacher

→ 7.30 - PTA meeting in staffroom

Thursday → 3.15 - Rooms 1 to 4 meet the teacher

### Back-to-school Mailing

A number of information attachments are attached to this update flier - please ensure you get any return slips back to the office ASAP.

### URGENT!!!!

A reminder to update the office ASAP on any changes to your family information / contact details. This is **vital** parents, particularly in the event of child illness, or an emergency. Please check at the office if your details have changed since the end of last year – thank you.

### REMINDERS

Child Absences (*keeping your children safe*) - please ring the office (*24 hour answering service*) on every occasion your child(ren) is absent from school. The school has a legal requirement to contact the Truancy Service in the event of an unexplained child absence.

School Arrival and Departure Times - the school is open from 8.30 each morning and is closed at 3.15pm. Children are not permitted in the school grounds before 8.30, and must be off the school premises by 3.15pm - unless they are involved in the after-school OSCAR programme in the Rewi Alley Hall, or the Helen O'Grady drama group in Room 7 (*or after school sports*).

**NOTE:** this is an important part of the school's '*duty of care*' responsibilities (*i.e. supervision of all students*)

### Bouquets to the Hurunui Council!!!!!!

Congratulations and a massive thank you to our local council roading contractors (*and local council engineer Bruce Yates*) on the superb job they did on the new school entrance in recent months.

As a School Principal it gives me great heart to see how well-supported our school is by the wider community!!

**Have a great year folks!!**

Best wishes

Kev O'Halloran - School Principal

